

Press Release

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of the County Executive



PUBLIC SAFETY
“Ensuring a Safe
Harford”

EDUCATION
“Preparing Now,
Building for the Future”

EFFICIENCY IN
GOVERNMENT
“Governing Smarter”

ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY
“Growing and Sustaining
Harford’s Prosperity”

ENVIRONMENTAL
STEWARDSHIP
“Protecting Our
Environment”

QUALITY LIVING
“Safeguarding What is
Important to Harford
County Citizens”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 6, 2012

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or 443-617-1954

Volunteer Fire Stations Will Serve As “Cooling Centers” on Sunday

(Bel Air, MD) - - With heat index values expected to reach nearly 105 degrees this weekend, the Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company and Abingdon Volunteer Fire Company will open their doors to the public to assist Harford County Government serving as cooling stations for those needing brief relief from the heat on Sunday.

Both the Bel Air and Abingdon Volunteer Fire Company’s will be open to the public from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 8, 2012.

“With several heat-related deaths already recorded the past week in Maryland, we strongly encourage our citizens to seek relief anywhere they can find air conditioning, including shopping malls, theaters or the two designated “Cooling Centers”, County Executive David R. Craig remarked. “The very young and our elderly population, as well as those with health issues, are a concern to us and we strongly recommend they seek shelter and assistance from the oppressive heat. This is a time when neighbors must help neighbors”, Craig remarked.

The Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company is located at 109 South Hickory Avenue in Bel Air. The Abingdon Volunteer Fire Company is located at 3306 Abingdon Road in Abingdon.

Harford County Health Officer Susan Kelly reminds people of all ages to be cautious when working or playing outdoors or during prolonged exposure to hot and humid weather conditions. “Those who work or recreate outside in direct exposure to the sun, or indoors in excessive heat for extended periods of time, must be particularly mindful of the risks and be exceptionally careful,” Ms. Kelly stated.

The Harford County Health Department recommends that individuals at special risk should stay indoors on particularly hot and humid days, especially when there is an air pollution alert in effect. People without fans or air conditioners should go to places such as shopping malls, movie theaters or designated cooling centers.

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Basic strategies are keys to preventing heat-related illness. Some tips to help cope with high temperatures and heat indices include:

- Limit exposure to excessive heat
- Limit outside activities during periods of high temperatures and humidity
- Stay hydrated by drinking more non-caffeinated, non-alcoholic fluids
- Wear light colored clothing
- Seek areas where air conditioning is operable as much as possible

For additional information regarding heat health issues and preventive measures visit the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Extreme Heat website at <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/extremeheat/SitePages/Home.aspx>. or the Harford County Division of Emergency Operations at www.harfordpublicsafety.org.